## LABOR STATISTICS.

Passage of a Bill Creating a Bureau for Their Collection.

A Measure Demanded by Laboring Men All Over the Country.

Inquiries to Be Made as to the Immigration and Importation of Labor.

Also the Effect on Production of Shortening the Hours of Labor.

Mr. Cox. of North Carolina, from the committee on foreign affairs, reported back a resolution call-ing on the secretary of state for a copy of the list of cortificates issued by the late Venezuelan mixed commission and for information as to the amount of money on hand applicable to the payment of new awards. Adopted.

The speaker laid before the house the following-named messages from the President, which were

appropriately referred:

Transmitting a report of the secretary of state in regard to the final awards made by the late French and American claims commission against the United States for 625,525 for the payment of claims of French citizens against the United States. The President recommends the appropri-ation of that sum to enable the government to fulfill the obligations under the treaty of June 15, 1889.

1880.

Transmitting a communication from the secretary of state relative to the approaching visit of a special embassy from Rism. The President recommends the appropriation of £25,000 to defray the expenses of the embassy while in this country.

the expenses of the embassy while in this country.

Transmitting a communication from the secretary of state respecting the approaching international conference at Washington for the purpose of fixing a meridian proper to be employed as a common zero of longitude and standard reckning throughout the globe. The President recommends the appropriation of \$19,000 to defray the expenses of the same.

The house then, in accordance with the special order, at 1245, went into committee of the whole (Mr. Wellborn, of Texas, in the chair) on bills reported from the committee on labor.

The first bill considered was that establishing and maintaining a department of labor statistics.

Mr. Hopkins, of Pennsylvania, chairman of the committee on labor, briefly called attention to the provisions of the bill and to the advantages to be derived from its passage. The labor problem was one of the most important questions which demanded and commanded the consideration of the people, and it was of the greatest benefit to all that a department should be established which could furnish authentic and reliable data on the subject. The bill was not in the interest of any school of political economy, but was intended to compile information for the use of protectionist and free trader alike.

A great deal of attention had been given to the

compile information for the use of protectionists and free trader alike.

A great deal of attention had been given to the American hos and the American steer; it was time congress should give more attention to the American man. Capital always roceived consideration here, but legislation in the interest of the laboring people had been rare and stinted. The present house had shown some disposition to atone for past neglect by creating a committee on labor, and this action had been greatly appreciated by the tolicus all over the land. They looked upon this bill as one of Immonse benefit so them, because it would bring to the attention of the country a full and truthful statement of their condition.

Mr. O'Naill, of Missauri and that the variance.

cause it would bring to the attention of the country a full and truthful statement of their condition.

Mr. O'Neill, of Missouri, said that the passage of this bill was demanded by the laboring men all over the country. They realized that agriculture had been recognized by the creation of a department of agriculture; that the signal service protected the shipping interests; that commerce was benefited by the bureau to collect information from consultar officers, and for the past twenty years they had been asking for a bureau to compile information as to labor. The statistical bureau of the treasury department could not accomplish what was needed, and it was a deplorable fact that that portion of the people who dild not work knew little of the condition of that larger portion which toiled.

Mr. Young, of Tennessee, had no doubt that when the report of this discussion went out to the country the laboring classes would be startled at the discovery that they had so many and ardent friends on this floor. The tone and temper of the house had not seemed so friendly a week ago, when the committee on public buildings had brought in a number of bills, the effect of which would have been to confer on the laboring men more practical good than would ever be accomplished by the measures coming from the committee on labor. Thousands of tide men and willing workers would have been only of the proposed to give the pending bill his most cheerful and earnest support, but he honed that it would be amended so as to establish a bureau of labor statistics as an adjunct of the agricultural department. No question which could be considered by this body was more fareaching in its influence than this; none more earnestly demanded by the highest consideration of ubile policy.

Mr. Wolford, of Kentucky, said that if the object of the bill was alone to show to the men engaged in labor where they could get a better compensation for their work, it would commend itself to every man who loved his country. But as he was not thoroughly confident

object, he bad some hesitation in giving his unequalified support to the measure. If the object was to point out to the cupidity of men where cheep labor could be found and brought into common the country of the American Mr. Belford, of Colorado, spoke in support of a pronosed amendment prohibiting corporations from importing foreign labor to compete with American citizons. He reiterated a statement made by him some days ago that the riot in Cincinnait had been but the beginning of communism in this country. The riot at Pittsburg yesterday had been occasioned by the cupidity of corporations in importing foreign laborers to compete with the American workmen, and in preventing the latter from baving a fair chance to care their honest bread and butter.

Mr. Bland, of Missouri, singested that protection did not protect American lobor.

Mr. Belford replied that at a meeting of operatives in Pittsburg a series of resolutions was adopted declaring that, while the protective system protected the manufacturer, the wages of the laborer were constantly diminishing.

Mr. Form of Olio, favored the bill, and strongly and the sum of the country collecting the very information which it was proposed should be compiled by a new department. In addition to this, there was the oureau of statistics, which could do the work; and he could see no necessity to add to the expenses of the government by the passage of this bill. Again, he had no faith in the information which it was proposed should be compiled by a new department. In addition to this, there was the oureau of statistics, which could do the work; and he could see no necessity to add to the expenses of the government by the passage of this bill. Again, he had no faith in the information when gathered. These bureaus, when created, instead of being used for information impartial in its character, were utilized to forward some political thought of any American citizen. The was not a single thing in the bill to justify the creation of this department.

Mr. Hoppins replied to the

to \$3.500.

Numerous amendments were offered and Sumerous amendments were offered and Severally voted down, and although no debate was allowed upon them the committee was the scene of a good deal of conguision, and it was the until 5.25 that the bill was reported to the house. It was then passed-yeas 187, mays 19.

It provides for the establishment of a bureau of abor statutes in charge of a commissioner at a solary of \$5.500, who shall assquire all uneful information upon the subject of labor, its relation to can \$1, and the means of wromoting the material, social, intellectual and moral prosperity

of the laboring men and women. He is authorized to employ such employer as he may deem necessary for the successful working of the bureau, provided that the total expense shall not exceed \$25,000 per annum.

The house then (at 5.60) adjourned.

ANOTHER VERSION. Judge Advocate General Swaim's Letter

to the Secretary of War in Answer to Banker Bateman's Charges. The letter of A. E. Bateman to the secretary

of war, preferring charges against Gen. Swain having been referred to Gen. Swaim by the secretary of war for remark and for such application as he might desire to make, was returned to the secretary of war by Gen. Swaim Saturday with the following state-

Swaim Saturday with the following statement:

[Respectfully returned to the secretary of war.]
I had a bank secount with Bateman & Co., and beside I loaned them \$5,000 at 6 per cent. interest, for which they gave me an instrument reading:

"Due D. G. Swaim or order \$5,000, value received."

"Washington, D. C., July 15, 1882."

This is a negotiable promissory note according to all the authorities on the subject, and was transferred in due course of business, and payment demanded, but retured.

Bateman & Co. claimed setoffs to the note, the correctness of which I denied. I endeavored to effect a settlement with them or refer the matter to an arbitrator, but without effect. The note was put in sait, but they now agree to refer the whole subject to an arbitrator, and with that view the suit has been withdrawn. The note (or due bill, as it is incorrectly termed) is now in the possession of Bright, Humphrey & Co., the indorsees thereof. In regard to the frauducent pay, vouchers the facts are as follows: Lieut, Col. A. P. Morrow, at the time a member of Gen. Sherman's staff, and a comparative stranger to me at the time, came to my office in company with another officer and requested me to advance him several months' pay on his pay accounts. I told him I did not do that kind of business, but in a friendly way referred him to brokers in the city doing such business, and named Bateman & Co. with others. I may have given him a note of introduction to that I had no concern or interest in these pay accounts I had no concern or interest in these pay accounts in the habit of doing what I could not do for him. I have no knowledge of any other pay account transaction with Bateman & Co.

The only request I have to make is that this statement may receive the same prompt publicity that the within false accusations received.

D. G. Swaim, Judge Advocate General,

Providing for a Scientific Commission. A subcommittee of the house committee on commerce yesterday decided to report favorably to the full committee Representative Mutchler's bill, providing for the sppoint-ment of a scientific commission to attend the international electrical exhibition to be held in Philadelphia next fall, under the auspices of the Franklin institute, of Pennsylvania, for the promotion of the mechanic arts. The bill provides that the commission may invite bill provides that the commission may invite scientific men, native and foreign, to participate in the conference. The commission may also conduct such special investigations, both at and subsequent to the international electrical exhibition, as may conduce to the the progress of electrical science in this country. The bill appropriates \$25,000 and requires that the work of the commission shall be completed within three years of the passage of the act.

Naval Court Martial.

A naval court martial has been ordered to meet at the Norfolk navy yard next Tuesday for the trial of Lieut. H. I. Moore, on charge of culpable negligence and inefficiency in the discharge of his duties. Lieut. Moore was the discharge of his duties. Lieut. Moore was the navigating officer of the Ossipce at the time she was run upon a sand spitnear Cape Henry while on a trial trip previous to her departure for the Asiatic station, having the naval board of inspection on board. The following is the detail for the court: Commodores W. T. Truxton and W. H. Queen, Cants. George E. Belknap and George H. Perkins, and Commanders Albert Kantz, C. M. Schoomaker, Silas Casey, C. S. Cotton, and Wm. Gibson, with First Lieut, F. H. Harring, marine corps, judge advocate. corps, judge advocate.

Civil Service.

At a meeting Saturday of the house committee on reform in the civil service, Representative Hoblitzell was directed to report adversely the bills for the repeal of the civil service laws. An unfavorable report was also ordered on Representative Warner's bill to reduce the salaries of the president, cabinet officials, judges of the supreme court, and congressmen. In response to an inquiry from Philadelphia as to whether the appropriations committee would refuse to make an priations committee would refuse to make an appropriation for the civil service commission, Mr. Randall has written a letter saying that his committee would not attempt to nullify any existing law by refusing to make an

The Greely Relief Expedition. The steamer Bear, which is to be the advance ship of the Greely relief expedition, is now ready for sea and will probably sail from New York on Wednesday or Thursday next, The supply ship Alert is expected to arrive at New York in a day or two. Lieut. Emory, commander of the Bear, had a long confer-ence with Secretary Chandler at the navy department yesterday in regard to the expedition. Secretary Chandler, and a party of prominent naval officers will visit New York next week to witness the departure of the pion eer vessel of the expedition.

New Buildings. Building permits were issued on Saturday to Chas, Edmonston to build one five-story office building on F street, between Fourteenth and Fifteenth streets northwest, to teenth and Fifteenth streets northwest, to cost \$25,000; J. Rushnell to make repairs at —— to cost \$500; W. C. Johnston to erect two dwellings on F street, between North Capitol street and New Jorsey avenue northwest, to cost \$2,400; Chas. Williams to make repairs at 1248 Twentieth street northwest to cost \$200.

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